

# NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

**United States Congress**

**Massachusetts Seventh District**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MARKEY COMMENDS PEW COMMISSION STUDY ON OCEANS**

*Lawmaker States, "There May Not Always Be Another Fish In The Sea"*

**Washington, D.C.** – Today, Representative Edward J. Markey, a senior Democrat on the Energy and Commerce and Resources Committee, commented on the release of the Pew Oceans Commission's report, *America's Living Ocean: Charting a Course for Sea Change*.

Rep. Markey stated, "A comprehensive review of our nation's ocean policy is long overdue. I applaud the effort of the Pew Commission to provide Congress with a broad perspective on the current state, both good and bad, of our oceans, coastal areas and marine resources. They have made some challenging recommendations to Congress that will guide our efforts as we consider the course of marine policy in the future.

"From the family that enjoys a day at the beach to the fisherman who depends on the ocean for a livelihood, we all want the healthiest oceans possible. Just as explorers two hundred years ago thought we could never deplete the bountiful wildlife and forests of the vast territory of North America, so we thought there would always be 'another fish in the sea.' Sadly, we have learned over the past few decades, and the Pew Report makes clear, this is not the case. Although in New England we have had significant rebuilding of some stocks, others are still at levels that raise serious concern. The closure of the nearby Canadian cod fishery should be a warning to us all. We do not want the once plentiful New England Cod to go the way of the once abundant Passenger Pigeon did a century ago.

"As the most ingenious nation in the world, we need to play to our strengths and use the native ingenuity of fisherman, in conjunction with marine scientists, to design the next generation of fishing equipment that will reduce bycatch and protect the ocean bottom. Scientist, conservationists, and fisherman need to work with policy-makers in order to develop a national marine policy that will continue the gains we have already made and find creative solutions to the problems that still face us," Rep. Markey concluded.

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